

Amendments to the Specification:

[0012] The gathering and picking device 10 comprises a gathering element 12 that can be set into rotative motion about an axis that is approximately vertical, but is slightly inclined toward the front (see Figure 2). This gathering element is provided with fingers 16 that project outward about radially, and the end regions of which are respectively curved in a trailing fashion, opposite to the direction of rotation in order to achieve a non-captive transport characteristic. A picking gap 18 is situated adjacent to the rotational axis of the gathering element 12, wherein two cooperating picking rolls 22 and 24 are arranged beneath the picking gap 18. An upper screw conveyor 26 is arranged above the picking gap 18 and above the fingers 16 on the side of the picking gap 18 opposite the gathering element 12. In order to simplify the insertion of the plant stalks into the picking gap 18, this upper screw conveyor has a faster transport speed than a lower screw conveyor 40 in the front region of the picking roll 24. The movable elements are set into rotative motion by means of suitable drives 20 and 28, wherein the screw conveyor 26 is driven by the picking roll 24 and gears within a gear housing 30 that is arranged on the front side of the picking roll 24 and of the upper screw conveyor 26. The picking gap 18 is ~~defined by~~ provided in an approximately horizontal stripper plate 34 that is arranged beneath the fingers 16 and above the picking rolls 22 and 24.